

LAW OFFICES  
SHOOK, HARDY & BACON

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**Figure 1**

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February 4, 1981

Messrs. Thomas F. Ahrensfield  
Max H. Crohn, Jr.  
Joseph H. Greer  
Arnold Henson  
Ernest Pepples  
Arthur Stevens

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LAW DEPARTMENT

Re: Dr. Theodor Sterling

**Gentlemen:**

In February of last year, I wrote to you requesting a one-year extension of Dr. Theodor Sterling's on-going project through May of 1981. Subsequently, approval was received for this extension at the level of \$283,130.00. We have received a request from Dr. Sterling to continue his current project for another year (ending May 31, 1982) in the amount of \$321,238.00. This represents about a 13.5% increase over the present level of funding. The detailed budget request is attached as Appendix A.

I mentioned in last year's letter that I had asked Dr. Sterling to give consideration to what form his project grant should take in future years. Dr. Sterling and I have had several discussions about the most appropriate way to structure his grant and have concluded that a further one-year extension with provision for inflationary increases would be appropriate.

At present, Dr. Sterling has both competent staff and computer support to deal with large data files and the statistical analyses required. The continuation of his project at approximately the same level of funding will enable Dr. Sterling to retain his staff and to complete projects currently underway and those planned for the immediate future. As in the past, Dr. Sterling has used the support received from his grant to develop

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proposals for other projects. The flexibility inherent in the current arrangement has also provided Dr. Sterling with the ability to respond quickly to new scientific developments.

Dr. Sterling has been quite interested in the work of Cohen and collaborators on the use of magnetic techniques to measure long-term lung clearance rates in smokers and nonsmokers. Dr. Sterling analyzed Cohen's article, which appeared in Science, May, 1979, and concluded that Cohen's claim that smokers have impaired long-term clearance capabilities compared to nonsmokers is open to challenge because of his faulty experimental design. Dr. Sterling interested Dr. Glicksman and colleagues at Brown University in this problem. Subsequently, both Dr. Sterling and Dr. Glicksman presented papers highly critical of Cohen's work at a recent conference. I have attached copies for your information as Appendix B. Dr. Sterling has been informed that Cohen and colleagues have apparently ceased this type of experimental work. In view of the many claims about the possible interaction of smoking and occupational exposures, Sterling's critical response to Cohen's work seems particularly important.

Dr. Sterling continues to present papers at scientific meetings and has been submitting articles for publication to respected journals. Please find attached as Appendix C an updated bibliography from 1977 to the present. Last month Dr. Sterling was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Sterling has several manuscripts in the final stages of preparation which he intends to submit to journals this year. Included among these is a statistical paper which discusses how average age at death for a population is dependent upon the age distribution of the population. In particular, this work should provide the basis for serious scientific criticism of the claim that smokers die younger because of their smoking. Also, Dr. Sterling's study of the changing occupational status of women since 1940 is progressing well. Dr. Sterling has noted that his preliminary data show that as women have become employed in jobs with exposures to fumes and dust, their respiratory disease rates have risen.

I continue to find that our frequent consultations with Dr. Sterling about scientific developments and new directions in the smoking and health controversy are particularly helpful. His interest and expertise in problems of occupational exposures will

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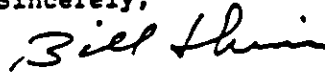
prove increasingly more valuable in view of the direction of our current product liability litigation.

Dr. Sterling is an independent scientist, of course, and as we have stated in earlier grant requests, there are to be no restrictions attached to his research work. Dr. Sterling's findings are his own, and we are free to agree or disagree with them.

Dr. Gardner of CTR has recommended approval of Dr. Sterling's project at the requested level of funding. We also strongly support Dr. Sterling's request. A response at your earliest convenience would be appreciated.

With best personal regards.

Sincerely,



William W. Shinn

WWS/rf  
Attachments  
cc: Alexander Holtzman

Janet Brown  
Edwin J. Jacob

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